

COUNCILLOR LINDELL SMITH DISTRICT 8 NEWSLETTER

Halifax Peninsula North



HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

SPRING 2022

DEAR RESIDENTS,

Happy Spring! I hope this past winter wasn't too hard on all of you. I know these last two years have been challenging on many fronts, so I hope we can continue to support each other especially as restrictions ease. I must highlight the challenges with winter snow clearing, and your help with recognizing problematic locations was very appreciated. Here are some Council highlights over the last couple of months:

Council allocated further funding for our Affordable Housing Grant Program in support of an affordable housing project at 2095-2219 Maitland Street in Halifax. Compass NS, a registered non-profit focused on developing co-operative housing throughout Nova Scotia, will develop the project and will provide 56 new affordable housing units. We adopted the Halifax Common Master Plan, serving as the guiding document for open space planning, development, and management in the Halifax Common. This replaces the 1994 Halifax Common Plan.

Council also directed the Chief Administrative Officer, through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion/African Nova Scotian Affairs Integration Office, to work with community partners to conduct phase one of a three-phased Africville visioning process. Phase one consists of a public engagement process in partnership with Africville descendants, Africville-focused organizations and community partners. Once this is completed, a report will be presented to Regional Council.

It is very important for residents to weigh in on issues and make us aware of your concerns. Your voice is key to the growth in our neighborhoods, and to ensure that this growth includes input from all residents; we need to hear from you.

Stay up-to-date by checking Council and Committee agendas, by watching Council online or at home, or by visiting www.halifax.ca. Also subscribe to my e-newsletter at www.lindellsmithhfx.ca/subscribe or call 902-490-4086 if you would like a paper version of the e-newsletter.

Sincerely,



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CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

I invite you to connect with me on Twitter and on Facebook: @LindellSmithHFX

HALIFAX



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EMERGENCY ACCOMMODATIONS UPDATE

The Halifax Regional Municipality recognizes that all residents deserve a home. While the province is responsible to lead addressing homelessness in all of Nova Scotia's municipalities, the Halifax Regional Municipality also has an important role to play – and is committed to applying resources to support efforts aimed at helping to address homelessness in the Halifax region.

In addition to funding provided during 2021 to help unhoused individuals in our region, on January 11th, 2022, Regional Council approved an additional \$1.2M to purchase and install modular units at the Halifax and Dartmouth sites, as well as address suitable temporary housing to address needs of unhoused residents.

The **Dartmouth site** is on Alderney Drive, near Church Street. The municipality has finalized its work to provide bedroom spaces at the Dartmouth modular unit site. Now that the Dartmouth site is complete, the municipality has shifted its focus on completing the Halifax modular unit site.

The **Halifax site** is located on a portion of the parking area of the Centennial Pool. Six modular units, an accessible unit and a number of support units, for a total of nine units, will be installed. When the Halifax location is complete, service providers working with the municipality and the province will be able to accommodate many of the people living in tents and temporary shelters, including those currently at Meagher Park. I want to thank the residents in the area who have been raising concerns related to the encampment.

Exact timing for occupancy is dependent upon the province, which is responsible for determining placement of individuals and providing wrap-around services onsite through a contracted service provider.

The municipality has provided some of the crisis accommodation funding approved by Regional Council to a coalition of 11 community service providers for hotel stays to support those experiencing homelessness. In conjunction with service providers, the municipality is also directly covering the cost of hotel rooms for some individuals. There are now also temporary overnight shelters available on a nightly basis until March 31st.

- Please visit www.halifax.ca for more updates, including funding to-date and other ongoing efforts to help unhoused residents.
- If you see an individual in need of shelter during extreme weather and they have requested help, please call **311 or 211** to connect them with service providers and ensure help is on the way. If their life is in danger, please call **911**.

UPDATE: ROBIE STREET TRAFFIC SAFETY

I spent some time with staff on site in the area of Robie St. (between Livingstone and Lady Hammond) in late September to discuss potential solutions. This meeting comes after making various requests on behalf of residents and from concerns I raised as well. After having many assessments done in this area, I asked for a more holistic approach to deal with the conflicts we are seeing in this area.

Robie Street is considered a Minor Collector and the area of focus that our traffic analyst studied was **Robie Street from Memorial Drive to Livingstone Street**.

There is an open request to assess Robie Street from Livingstone Street to Lady Hammond Road but all of the data has been collected to support the review. Once the data is collected, it will be ranked under our new traffic calming policy. The new traffic calming policy is currently under review and if approved by Council, all of the currently ranked streets (www.halifax.ca/transportation/streets-sidewalks/road-safety/traffic-calming-safer-streets) will be reviewed under the new policy.

Staff are hoping to have the new rankings done by spring so they can use them to select projects for our 2023 budget. There is also a larger review of collisions in the area that will help determine if any future redesigns are warranted. Overall, the entirety of Robie Street from Memorial Drive to Livingstone Street Traffic is currently being assessed for future traffic calming measures to assist with slowing down vehicles.

This may not be implemented until 2023, however this the best medium-term solution we can pursue right now. As information becomes available, I will share it with residents who have reached out with concerns.



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IN-PERSON REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS RESUME

Halifax Regional Council and some other meetings are soon resuming in-person, starting with the March 22nd Regional Council meeting. It was very exciting to join my colleagues at our first in-person Regional Council meeting on October 19th and I am looking forward to being face-to-face once again. You can still view Regional Council and many other meetings virtually via www.halifax.ca/city-hall/

The Government of Nova Scotia has indicated that the Proof of Vaccination will no longer be required as of February 28, 2022. Requirements for masking and social distancing will also be removed as of March 21, 2022. While masks may be worn during meetings, they will not be required.

As a result of this, no proof of vaccination is required from members of the public upon entrance to a meeting. Meeting participation via telephone will also be removed for members of the public for all meeting types.

Check the agenda on www.halifax.ca/city-hall/ for each meeting, once available, to confirm whether the meeting will be virtual or in-person. For public hearings, public advertisements will include whether the hearing is virtual or in-person.

POTHOLES: REPORTING & REPAIRING

Road operations crews identify, log, and address potholes all year. They also rely heavily on residents to report any problematic potholes they see, so they can be logged into the system for repair. HRM's crews monitor and repair more than 1,700 km of roadways. More than 5,200 potholes are repaired throughout the municipality each year.

The time to fix a pothole can range anywhere from 7 business days to 30 business days depending on the pothole and if it is considered a priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

How do I report potholes? On municipal roads, please call 311 or email contactus@311.halifax.ca. You can also fill out this online form at: www.halifax.ca/potholes

What if my vehicle is damaged by a pothole?

First, call 311 to determine who is responsible for the stretch of road the pothole is located on. If the damage occurred due to a pothole on a municipal road, begin a claim process with a 311 agent.

If you determine it occurred on a provincial road, please contact DPW.

Are potholes repaired at this time of year? During the winter months, road operations crews have access to a mobile hot asphalt unit that can repair potholes. Crews also use a cold patch product that can be applied year-round for areas that require immediate attention. Larger hot asphalt plants typically open in late April or early May.

Please visit www.halifax.ca/potholes for more information.

SPRING SERVICE INFORMATION

HRM'S TREE PRUNING PROGRAM IS UNDERWAY

The municipality's tree pruning program is a proactive, cyclical maintenance program intended to ensure the continued health and safety of our urban forest. The winter 2022 program is now underway and is expected to continue through the end of March.

Any resident may call **311** to request street tree work within the municipal service boundary. For more information, visit www.halifax.ca/trees

CONSIDER STARTING A COMMUNITY GARDEN

HRM residents can start community gardens on land owned by the municipal government. To start a community garden, you must be a non-profit group and submit an application before the March 30th deadline.

To review HRM's application form and handbook, visit www.halifax.ca and type Community Gardens in the search bar. From there, you'll also find a full list of existing community gardens and their contacts, such as Hope Blooms if you're thinking of joining one.



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HRM VOLUNTEER AWARDS

I would like to recognize the volunteers and community groups who were selected to receive a Volunteer Award in the past year. Congratulations and thanks to the District 8 volunteers, **Chris Felix (first photo below), Erin Poirier (second photo below), Marion Lakenman (bottom photo), Mike Beamish, Eptehal Nashnoush, and Melbourne Neily.** 2023 Volunteer Award nominations will open later this year.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EXTENDED: THE COVID-19 EVENTS RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR NON-PROFITS

HRM has developed a dedicated grant program to support nonprofits and community/cultural event organizations to maintain or restart in-person events.

The one-time grant is to assist with COVID-19 adaptation expenses incurred directly related to deliver in-person (live) events. The total budget for the COVID-19 Events Recovery Fund is \$150,000.

For more details and to apply, visit www.halifax.ca and search for **Covid-19 Events Recovery Program**. Applications will close on March 31, 2022, subject to availability of funds.

2022-2023 COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAM

HRM's Community Grants Program is now accepting applications until March 31st for the 2022-2023 program. The Program provides annual cash grants to registered non-profit organizations and charities located throughout the Halifax region. There are two types of grants: \$5,000 and up to \$25,000.

This funding can aid with projects in categories including Arts and Crafts, Diversity and Inclusion, Environment, Emergency Assistance & Neighbourhood Safety, History, Housing, Leisure, and Recreation.

Application forms and program guidebooks are available from either of the following:

- HRM Customer Service Centres: www.halifax.ca/home/311#ContactCentres
- Call 311
- E-mail Nonprofitgrants@halifax.ca

For further information, please call 902.490.7310 or visit www.halifax.ca.

311 - MUNICIPAL CONTACT CENTRE

You can call 311 or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Their hours are:
Mon-Fri 8am-8pm / Sat-Sun 9am-5:30pm



Please recycle.

Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.

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